

(b) Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 28-36, 42-45 and 47-51 as follows. A detailed listing of all the claims that are or were in the application is provided.

1. (Original) A silica fine particle which has been hydrophobic treated, and has a peak in a particle diameter range of 0.04 μm or more and less than 1 μm and a peak in the particle diameter range of 1 μm or more and less than 100 μm in a volume-basis particle diameter distribution measured by using a laser diffraction particle diameter distribution meter,

wherein the silica fine particle has a frequency ratio of 10 to 80% for the particles with a particle diameter in the range of 0.04 μm or more and less than 1 μm to a total of all the peaks, and has the frequency ratio of less than 16% for the particles with the particle diameter of 20 μm or more and less than 2000 μm to the total of all the peaks, respected to the volume-basis particle diameter distribution.

2. (Original) The silica fine particle according to claim 1, wherein the silica fine particle has the frequency ratio of 20 to 70% for the particles with the particle diameter in the range of 0.04 μm or more and less than 1 μm to the total of all the peaks, and have the frequency ratio of less than 12% for the particles with the particle diameter in the range of 20 μm or more and less than 2000 μm to the total of all the peaks, respect to the volume-basis particle diameter distribution measured by using the laser diffraction particle diameter distribution meter.